

BOOK NOTICE

The Carnivorous Plants. By Francis Ernest Lloyd. 1942, Waltham, Mass., the Chronica Botanica Company; New York City, G. E. Stechert and Co. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ inches, xvi + 352 p. frontis., 11 figs., 38 pls. \$6.00.

This impressive book, embracing the results of many years' work by a recognized authority, should be of interest to entomologists as it is the first comprehensive monograph on the subject that has appeared since Charles Darwin's "Insectivorous Plants" of 1875. In fifteen chapters Professor Lloyd summarizes the history and present knowledge of insectivorous plants of which there are approximately 450 species in fifteen genera.

The treatment includes the geographical distribution of species and genera, habitats, general characters, morphology, anatomy and histology of certain plant parts, digestion and absorption of the prey and references to the literature. In addition the insect associates of certain carnivorous plants are mentioned at some length.

It is the trapping mechanisms that are of absorbing interest and the author, beginning with the pitfalls or passive traps of the pitcher plants, leads up to the active, complex and extraordinarily perfect trap of *Utricularia*, which he compares to an "elaborate, automatic, self-setting" mouse trap, including a disposal plant, which works in any position and at the same time under water.

Of extreme interest, are other devices such as viscid secretions, special glands, sensitive hairs and tentacles, waxy secretions, and the trapping loops, swelling ring cells and sticky discs of certain carnivorous fungi whereby eel worms, *Amœba*, etc., are captured. Professor Lloyd not only describes in detail these special organs for the capture and digestion of animal prey but also the plants as a whole, giving one an accurate and well balanced account of their variety and behavior. In our entomological texts, insectivorous plants get scanty attention in spite of the fact that this particular type of relationship between plants and insects is of extraordinary interest. I am glad to recommend this book to the attention of entomologists. It is a fascinating, scientific monograph with numerous, excellent, and mostly original illustrations. It deserves a place in every entomologist's library.—
H. B. WEISS.